

Job Posting: Full-Time Community Systems Policy Director

Position Summary: Through an equity lens, develops and coordinates implementation of strategic priorities and policies for a sustainable and well-aligned early childhood comprehensive system, across multiple state agencies and funding streams. (The early childhood comprehensive system includes: early learning and development programs; health and mental health care; and family support services.) Engages state agencies, community collaborations, service providers, families, and other diverse stakeholders in the development of policies and initiatives.

Reports to: Preschool Expansion Policy Director, Office of Early Childhood Development

Responsibilities include:

- Develop and coordinate implementation of policies and initiatives to strengthen system connections between early childhood and health, mental health, and developmental screenings/services, in collaboration with state agencies and diverse community stakeholders.
- In partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education, provide strategic oversight of the Community Systems TA & Training Initiative
- Understand and work to operationalize an equity lens, with the goal of eliminating racial inequities throughout the early childhood system. This includes: engaging diverse perspectives; identifying how racial/ethnic and underserved groups are affected by current or proposed policies or procedures; and analyzing how policy or procedures might worsen existing disparities or produce other unintended consequences. Cultivate equitable practices across all aspects of job function.
- Identify and pursue cross system opportunities for collaboration to support communities and programs
 - Work with state agencies to strengthen system connections between 0-3 and 3-5 programs
 - Build upon the community systems development work in the Innovation Zones
 - As a member of the Lead Reduction group of the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth, assist in developing and implementing cross-system action steps
 - As a member of the core planning group of the Developmental Screening Stakeholders' meeting, assist in implementing the cross-system action steps outlined in the report
 - Serve as a point person in a feedback loop between communities and state agencies, tracking reported questions/issues, facilitating their resolution, and regularly reporting results to stakeholders
 - Participate in other related cross-systems stakeholder meetings and initiatives, especially those that address health, mental health, and developmental services, such as the Community Systems Development, Health, and Inclusion Subcommittees of the Illinois Early Learning Council.
 - Oversee data collection and report on community systems outcomes across state agencies
 - Communicate community systems updates, data, and policy recommendations regularly to diverse stakeholder audiences.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of equity and key related concepts including racial disparities, structural inequities, and structural racism.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in early childhood programs or early childhood-related policy work involving multiple streams of early childhood programs (such as child care, Head Start, preschool, health/mental health, and home visiting).
- Experience in leading, coordinating, or facilitating a community collaboration or network
- Experience in a government related field is preferred.
- Extensive experience in project management and coordinating top level decision makers.
- The ability to communicate complex issues to diverse audiences, including state administrators, community collaborations, service providers, and families.
- Demonstrated experience working with diverse populations and engaging diverse perspectives, including those of populations whose first language is not English.

- A Master's degree in Early Childhood Education or Child Development, Public Policy, Political Science, or Social Work
- Expertise in quantitative data analysis is preferred.

Position available July 1.

Send Cover Letter and Resume to: Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development c/o GOV.OECD@Illinois.gov